

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A furniture assembly, comprising:
a first seating unit with a stationary support;
a second seating unit with a stationary support;
a connector that is configured to interconnect the first and second seating units such that respective lateral portions thereof are adjacent, the connector including:
a first component attached to the stationary support of the first seating unit;
a second component attached to the stationary support of the second seating unit;
and
interconnecting structure attached to the first and second components that (a) prevents relative horizontal movement of the first and second seating units when the first and second seating units are in an interconnected condition, and (b) permits relative vertical movement of the first and second seating units when in the interconnected condition to separate the first and second seating units;
wherein the interconnecting structure is further configured such that it permits interconnection of the first and second seating units via relative horizontal movement of the first and second seating units as the first and second seating units are brought together from a separated condition and such that said relative horizontal movement locks the first and second seating units together.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 2 ~~3~~, wherein the interconnecting structure is configured to permit interconnection of the first and second seating units via relative transverse horizontal movement.

4. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 1, wherein the first component includes a base, and wherein the interconnecting structure includes an upright post attached to the base.

5. (currently amended) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 4, wherein the first ~~connector piece~~ component includes a stop that ceases relative transverse horizontal movement of the first and second seating units during interconnection.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 4, wherein the second connector component includes a base, and wherein the interconnecting structure comprises a slot in the base that is configured to receive the post attached to the first component.

8. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 7, wherein the slot includes a flared entry portion.

9. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 7, wherein the interconnecting structure comprises a locking finger rotatably mounted on the second component base, the locking finger being rotatable between a receiving position and an engagement position, in which the locking finger engages the post as the first and second seating units are in the interconnected condition.

10. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 9, wherein the interconnecting structure further comprises a biasing unit attached to the second component that biases the locking finger toward the engagement position.

11. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 10, wherein the biasing unit comprises a spring.

12. (currently amended) A connector for interconnecting two objects in adjacent relationship, comprising:

a first component adapted to be mounted on one of the two objects, the first component comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate; and

an upright post mounted on and normal to the base plate; and

a second component adapted to be mounted on a second of the two objects, the second component comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate having a slot configured to receive the post; and

a locking finger rotatably mounted to the base plate, the locking finger being rotatable about an axis normal to the base plate between a receiving position, in which the locking finger does not overlie the slot, such that the post is free to enter the slot, and an engagement position, in which the locking finger at least partially overlies the slot and engages the post, such that the post is prevented from exiting the slot;

the locking finger and post being configured such that the first component can be separated from the second component by relative movement thereof in a direction substantially parallel with the post.

13. (original) The connector defined in Claim 12, wherein the second component further comprises a biasing unit that biases the locking finger toward the engagement position.

14. (original) The connector defined in Claim 13, wherein the biasing unit comprises a spring.

15. (original) The connector defined in Claim 12, wherein the slot includes a flared entry portion.

16. (original) The connector defined in Claim 12, wherein the first component includes a stop that prevents movement of the post within the slot.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A furniture assembly, comprising:
a first reclining seating section with a reclining mechanism;
a second reclining seating section with a reclining mechanism;
a connector that is configured to interconnect the first and second reclining seating sections such that respective lateral portions thereof are adjacent, the connector including:
a first component attached to the reclining mechanism of the first seating unit;
a second component attached to the reclining mechanism of the second seating unit; and
interconnecting structure attached to the first and second components that (a) prevents relative horizontal movement of the first and second seating units when the first and second seating units are in an interconnected condition, and (b) permits relative vertical movement of the first and second seating units when in the interconnected condition to separate the first and second seating units;
wherein the interconnecting structure is further configured such that it permits interconnection of the first and second seating units via relative horizontal movement of the first and second seating units as the first and second seating units are brought together from a separated condition and such that said relative horizontal movement locks the first and second seating units together.

19. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 18, wherein the first component is mounted to the base of the reclining mechanism of the first reclining seating section, and the second component is mounted to the base of the reclining mechanism of the second reclining seating section.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 19, wherein the first component includes a base, and wherein the interconnecting structure includes an upright post attached to the base.

23. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 22, wherein the first component includes a stop that ceases relative transverse horizontal movement of the first and second seating units during interconnection.

24. (canceled)

25. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 22, wherein the second connector component includes a base, and wherein the interconnecting structure comprises a slot in the base that is configured to receive the post attached to the first component.

26. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 25, wherein the slot includes a flared entry portion.

27. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 25, wherein the interconnecting structure comprises a locking finger rotatably mounted on the second component base, the

locking finger being rotatable between a receiving position and an engagement position, in which the locking finger engages the post as the first and second reclining seating sections are in the interconnected condition.

28. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 27, wherein the interconnecting structure further comprises a biasing unit attached to the second component that biases the locking finger toward the engagement position.

29. (original) The furniture assembly defined in Claim 28, wherein the biasing unit comprises a spring.